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Message Text

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44
ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AID-20 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 OPR-02 SY-04 DRC-01 /176 W
---------- 065340
R 100635Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7247
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL KHORRAMSHAHR
AMCONSUL TABRIZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5630

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, IR
SUBJ: LABOR PROBLEMS IN TEHRAN

SUMMARY: WE HAVE LEARNED IN PAST SEVERAL WEEKS THERE HAVE BEEN TWO STRIKES, ONE OF WHICH INVOLVED THREE BOMBING INCIDENTS, ONE ADDITIONAL LABOR PROBLEM, AND A FOURTH BOMBING INCIDENT THAT MAY OR MAY NOT BE RELATED TO A LABOR PROBLEM. THERE IS NO PATTERN IN THE INCIDENTS, WHICH WERE COMPLETELY UNRELATED. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING THE PAST THREE WEEKS WE WERE INFORMED OF AT LEAST THREE DIFFERENT LABOR PROBLEMS AT DIFFERENT WORKSITES, AND THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A FOURTH.
A. IN LATE JUNE THERE WAS VERY PEACEFUL SIT-DOWN STRIKE AT THE NATIONAL IRANIAN OIL COMPANY'S TEHRAN REFINERY. (THIS LABOR INCIDENT IS NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE US FLUOR COMPANY STRIKE EARLIER AT THE SAME WORKSITE.) SPECIAL LABOR FORCE GROUP BROUGHT UP FROM ABADAN FOR TEMPORARY REFINERY OPERATION CONDUCTED PEACEFUL SIT-DOWN STRIKE FOR FIVE DAYS OVER WORKING CONDITIONS, ACCESS TO
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COMPANY CANTEEN FOR AFTER-HOURS MEAL SERVICE. SECURITY AUTHORITIES

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WERE AT HAND BUT DID NOT BECOME INVOLVED AS PROBLEM SETTLED WITH-
OUT VIOLENCE OR THREAT OF IT.
B. IN DISPUTE OVER INCREASED WAGES, WORKERS AT IRANYA TILE
THREATENED VIOLENCE UNLESS THEIR DEMANDS WERE MET. STRIKE LASTED
ABOUT ONE WEEK, AND TWO BOMBS WERE SET OFF AT COMPANY HEADQUARTERS
IN TEHRAN ON JUNE 25 AND ADDITIONAL ONE AT PLANT OUTSIDE CITY ON
JUNE 27, ACCORDING IRANIAN SECURITY AUTHORITIES. MINISTRY OF LABOR
OFFICIAL FAMILIAR WITH CASE TOLD EMBASSY THAT MINISTRY'S INVESTI-
GATION PROVED WORKEERS AT FAULT FOR MAKING UNJUSTIFIED DEMANDS NOT
IN COMFORMITY WITH CONTRACT. MINISTRY CALLED IN SECURITY AUTHOR-
ITIES WHO ARRESTED AND JAILED SOME OF WORKERS AND CAUTIONED A
NUMBER OF OTHERS. MANAGEMENT REPORTEDLY ALSO FIRED SOME WORKERS
WHO IT CONSIDERED AS TROUBLEMAKERS. INCIDENT NOW APPEARS TO BE
OVER, BUT THIS FAR SECURITY AUTHORITIES UNABLE TO FIND PERSONS WHO
PLACED BOMBS.
C. ON JUNE 27 BOMB ALSO WENT OFF AT LANDROVER FACTORY AT SAME TIME
AS ONE THAT WENT OFF AT TILE FACTORY. SECURITY AUTHORITIES HINTED
THERE COULD BE A CONNECTION BETWEEN TWO BOMBS. IT IS UNKNOWN WHET-
HER THERE ARE ANY LABOR PROBLEMS AT LANDROVER FACTORY. MINISTER OF
LABOR ON JULY 9 WAS UNAWARE OF THESE BOMB INCIDENTS AS HE WAS OUT
OF COUNTRY AT TIME. AFTER MAKING QUICK TELEPHONE CALL, HE TOLD
POLITICAL COUNSELOR AND REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE THAT BOMB AT ALND-
ROVER FACTORY WAS IN REALITY NO BOMB BUT A FUSE BOX THAT BLEW UP.
HE DID NOT COMMENT ABOUT THE THREE BOMBS AT IRANYA TILE.
D. FOURTH INCIDENT RELATED TO LABOR PROBLEM AT MELLI SHOE FACTORY,
WHERE ACCORDING TO SENIOR MINISTRY OF LABOR OFFICIAL, GERMAN
FACTORY GENERAL MANAGER WAS AT FAULT FOR TREATING WORKERS QTE
ROUGHLY UNQTE. HE WAS WARNED BY MINISTRY THAT UNLESS HE CONFORMED
WITH IRANIAN LABOR LAW, CUSTOMS AND PRACTICES HIS WORK PERMIT
WOULD BE PICKED UP AND HE WOULD BE FORCED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

2. COMMENT: NOT A SINGLE WORD ABOUT ANY OF FOREGOING WAS MENTIONED
IN PRESS. THREE LABOR INCIDENTS WERE COMPLETELY UNRELATED AND ALL
RESULTED FROM DIFFERENT REASONS. THEY SHOW THAT MINISTRY OF LABOR
AS INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ARBITER COOPERATES CLOSELY WITH SECURITY
AUTHORITIES WHO OBSERVE VERY CLOSELY BUT DO NOT BECOME INVOLVED
UNLESS VIOLENCE OR THREAT OF VIOLENCE IS ENTAILED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Concepts: BOMBING, LABOR STRIKES
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Draft Date: 10 JUL 1974
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740183-0562
From: TEHRAN
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